

Since our last Council meeting on September 5-

- Latest news from the Stepping Stones Day Care/Preschool and its temporary relocation from Ms. Galipeau is they are working with the First Baptist Church, the Fire Marshall, and Childcare Licensing to get the final inspection that will approve the temporary move. The current location is being remediated for the mold issue that caused the temporary closure.
- On September 6th, Mr. Wade and I asked for and had a meeting with the City Manager and Community Development regarding the current state of the Septic Replacement program. Councilman Fleming was able to attend and it was decided to have a roundtable discussion, including Capital Facilities, to determine staffing for this program, how to move it forward, and how to correct the errors made in past installations.
- I attended the School Board meeting on September 11. There was discussion about the results from the new State PEAK assessment, afterschool activities, and the continuing superintendent search.
- It was very moving to see the flag memorial on the Park Strip on 9/11 for the first responders who gave their all on that fateful day in 2001. I want to thank our fire department for putting this memorial up every year.
- The overview meeting of the upcoming Arctic Eagle emergency preparedness exercise was held on the morning of the 12th. The National Guard is coordinating this effort in several locations and Valdez is one of them. They will be in town February 22nd to the 25th. There will be visiting forces from Wyoming, Colorado, Connecticut, Washington, Utah, and Alaska who will be working with the USCG, State, and City to run a disaster scenario to gauge how prepared we are in event of the real thing. The City needs to come up with objectives for this exercise and relate them to the State's Department of Military and Veteran Affairs by early October. I will be working with the CM to have this happen in the near future.
- The Health Advisory Council met on the 12th and went over the data gathered by the Community Health Needs survey that was given in May. Valdez had 750 people take the survey, which is about 25% of our adult population. This is an amazing return for any survey. Many thanks again to all who took the time to give their opinions on the health care needs of our town. The top three needs were identified as: access to primary care, behavioral health and substance abuse, and availability of specialty care. Now the hospital administration and board will begin to devise a plan to help meet these identified needs.
- The draft report for phase two of the AMHS Reform project was released on September 13. Please follow the link below to view the report. SE Conference and the project team will be taking comments on the report.
http://www.amhsreform.com/sites/amhsreform.com/files/DRAFT%20AMHS%20Reform%20Phase%202%20Report_12Sep_1.pdf
- The PWSEDD has a new Executive Director, Wanetta Ayers. She has been the interim director, has much experience working in Alaska on economic development issues. She is a native of Alaska and is the daughter on one of the Air National Guard crew, Ken Ayers, who lost his life in the waters off Valdez after delivering Governor Egan here to view the destruction from the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. She and her siblings recently wrote to the Council to thank us for working on a way to memorialize this crew's sacrifice.
- Mike Wells, Patience Anderson-Faulkner, and I have worked on and recommended changes to the PWSEDD's By-Laws. These will be presented for adoption at the Special Membership meeting in November.
- I attended the PWSRCAC board meeting in Whittier on Thursday and Friday, the 14th and 15th. The major topic of discussion was the transition of the tanker escort services.
- The once in a lifetime Congressional Gold Medal ceremony was held the evening of the 15th for the Civil Air Patrol officer, Mr. Kennedy. What an immense honor this was and I give my deepest thanks for his service to our country.
- Don't forget the 2nd Annual Confluence Conference that will be held at the Civic Center September 22.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez